

The Physician's BOOKSHELF



MANAGEMENT OF FRACTURES AND SOFT TISSUE INJURIES—Second Edition—By the Committee on Trauma, American College of Surgeons. Based on An Outline of the Treatment of Fractures, Eighth Edition, 197 pages, published 1965, \$3.25; and Early Care of Acute Soft Tissue Injuries, Third Edition, 232 pages, published 1965, \$3.50. W. B. Saunders Company, Philadelphia, 1965. 365 pages, \$7.50.

This small book is presented as a summary of fundamentals in the management of the injured patient. Its format is that of a well organized outline with a maximum of pertinent rules and facts, and a minimum of discussion or theory. With a scope as ambitious as the title would presume, it must of necessity very briefly allude to much which could be considered applicable to the topic. This is pointed out appropriately by the authors who intend the work as a quick, easily accessible reference source or guide in initial care only. It is divided equally between the treatment of fractures, and the management of soft tissue injuries.

Part I is an outline of the treatment of fractures. The short chapters develop a logical sequence of patient care starting with the initial exam, and carrying through to a very brief note on rehabilitation. This outline is thorough, covering the essentials of patient evaluation and treatment, both emergency and definitive. Specific reference is made to the common fractures of the adult and child, prophylaxis against tetanus, evaluation and treatment of shock and infections. A brief remark about the hyperbaric oxygen chamber would have been in order here for completeness. There are, curiously, two separated chapters devoted to anesthesia, the second of which offers very little additional information. Similarly, the short discussion of operative treatment is of necessity so superficial as to be probably unnecessary as a separate chapter.

Part II considers acute soft tissue injuries. Where possible, these are dealt with regionally or systemically so that a maximum of material is covered. In spite of the wide expanse of subject material, the presentation of general principles and fundamentals is balanced well with an adequate complement of detailed information. Thus, one could very capably plan the care of a severely burned patient relying primarily on the information available here.

Chapters on head, neck, spinal cord and facial trauma, vascular injuries, chest and abdominal wounds are also very thorough, and equally effective. The material on hand injuries and amputations is excellent, stressing the fundamentals and avoiding the unnecessary details of operative repair.

Although it is no longer small enough to "fit in the pocket of a residents white coat" as originally intended, the book remains extremely handy and a valuable reference particularly for the emergency room physician, or house officer dealing with trauma. A familiarity with its material would be especially reassuring to the intern or medical student approaching his emergency experience for the first time. A manual such as this is not a substitute for training and preparation, but when fact are figures are clouded by the hour of the evening or the volume of the work, it is comforting to have a familiar source of infor-

mation readily available. This book could certainly be included in such a source.

Two minor corrections are noted:

1. Page 47, paragraph 3. Induction by inhalation . . . Vs. Induction after inhalation.
2. Page 111, last paragraph . . . a dislocation associated with fracture rarely recurs . . . Vs. . . . rarely occurs.

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MEDICAL MICROBIOLOGY—A Guide to the Laboratory Diagnosis and Control of Infection—Eleventh Edition—Edited by Robert Cruickshank, M.D., F.R.C.P., F.R.C.P.E., D.P.H., F.R.S.E., Professor of Bacteriology, University of Edinburgh; Adviser in Bacteriology, Scottish Home and Health Department, and S.E. Regional Hospital Board (Scotland); Senior Consultant in Bacteriology, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh. Assistant Editors: J. P. Duguid, M.D., B.Sc., Professor of Bacteriology, Queen's College, Dundee, and R. H. A. Swain, M.A., M.D., M.R.C.P.E., F.C.Path., F.R.S.E., Reader in Virology, University of Edinburgh. The Williams & Wilkins Company, Baltimore, Md., 1965. 1067 pages, \$11.00.

This is a textbook by a group of British authors, with Professor Robert Cruickshank as editor. The objective is described as "a comprehensive textbook to cater for the need of all those concerned with the laboratory diagnosis and control of infection in man. We were particularly conscious of the usefulness for countries where communicable disease is still the major contributor to sickness and death, of an all-purpose textbook on medical microbiology which could be a vade-mecum for teachers and students alike. . . ." Of more than 1,000 pages, about 600 are devoted to descriptive bacteriology, virology, mycology and parasitology. The descriptions are fairly conventional, reasonably concise and up-to-date. Major emphasis is placed on laboratory identifications of microorganisms and public health aspects of the subject.

About 400 pages are devoted to detailed outlines of laboratory procedures. In fact, while not describing specific experiments, part of the book can serve as a laboratory manual. Thus 25 pages are devoted to descriptions of the common microscope, 8 pages to "measurement of pH," and 50 pages to the preparation of bacteriological culture media. Streaking of bacteriological plates, incubation and other routine procedures are described in greatest detail.

This book appears to be well suited to teaching and training in countries with relatively low standards of sanitation, public health, laboratory medicine. For many developing countries this book might be an excellent text. It appears less well suited for medical schools in highly organized countries (such as Great Britain or the U.S.) with competent public health, laboratory and hospital services, precisely because it is so largely devoted to the practical and routine aspects of medical microbiology. References are provided at the end of each chapter and there is a comprehensive index.

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